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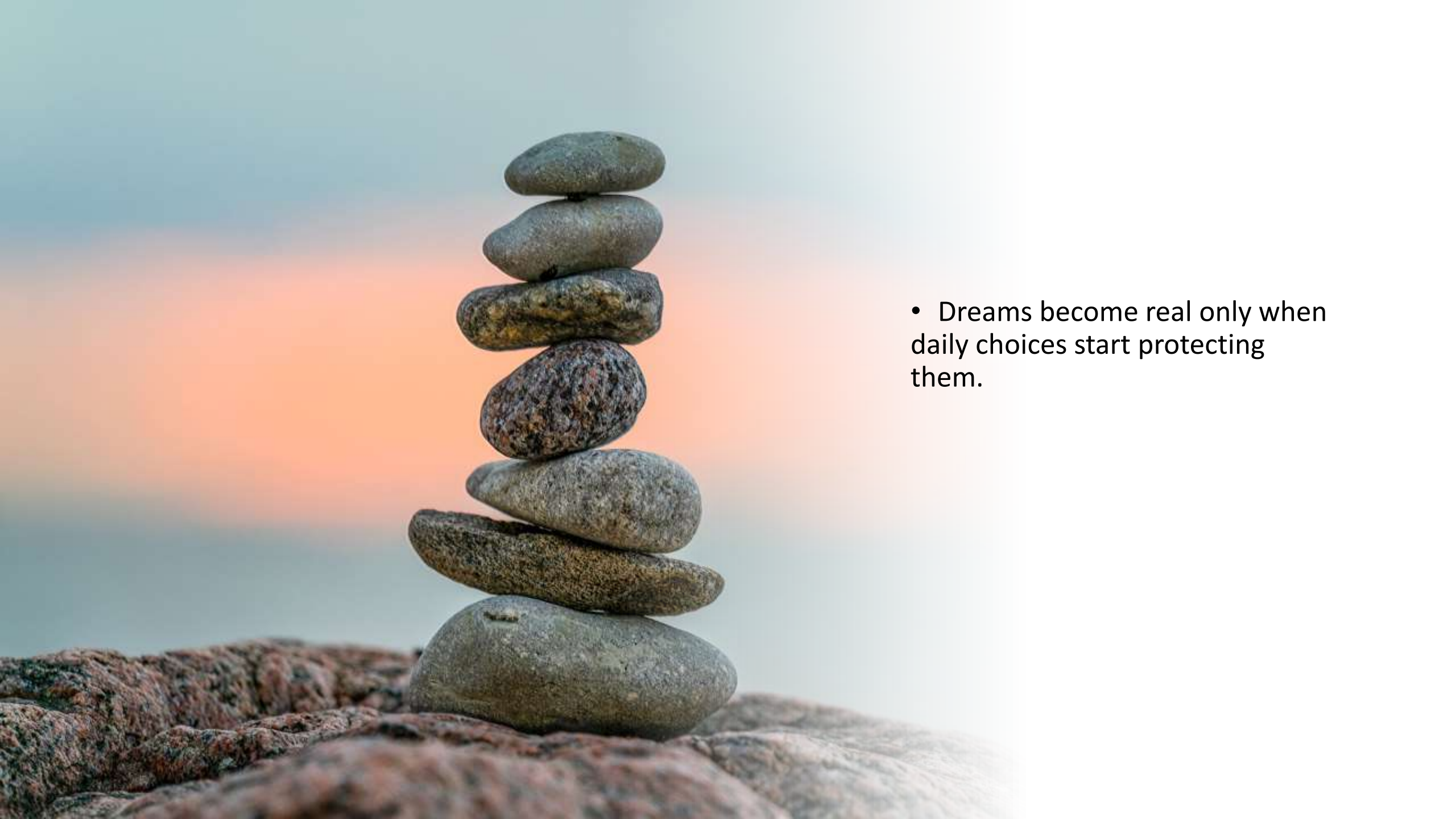
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- Dreams become real only when daily choices start protecting them.

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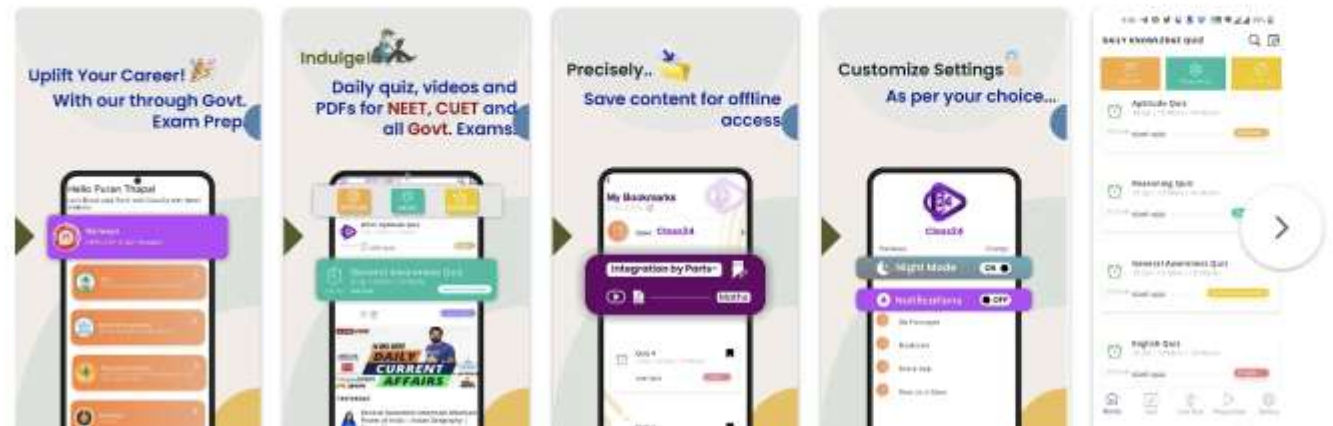
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**INSIDE**

**Iranians reject UN inspection at key nuclear sites**  
TEHRAN  
Iran said on Tuesday the UN nuclear inspection will not be able to inspect nuclear sites located by the U.S. and Israel last year, as the first round of talks to end the war resumed in Geneva.

**Congress alleges 'scam' involving M.P. CMV's family**  
BANGALORE  
The Congress on Tuesday accused a high-level leader of the ruling party of a scam involving the family of a Member of Parliament.

**Farmers' group flags ration risk in West Bengal**  
KOLKATA  
The West Bengal Farmers' Union on Tuesday said politicians must ensure the Calcutta High Court will not issue a stay on the government's order to raise the ration price.

**CUET-UG results one, one student tops in 4 subjects**  
NEW DELHI  
The National Testing Agency (NTA) released the results of the Central Universities Entrance Test (CUET-UG) on Tuesday.

**Kerala requires spending reform, says CAG report**  
NEW DELHI  
The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on Tuesday said Kerala's government must reduce its expenditure.

**8 die of poisoning in Chhattisgarh, accused arrested**  
RAIPUR  
A 40-year-old man has been arrested in Chhattisgarh for allegedly poisoning eight people.

# Centre tightens norms for foreign donations

NGOs must stick to the activities specified by Centre in their category and geographical area | NGOs must declare everything they published: books, magazines, and articles in newspapers | Existing registrations must comply within the next year; a minimum fine of ₹ lakh will apply

**Yashraj Singh**  
NEW DELHI  
New government regulations (NGOs) wanting to receive foreign funds must now stick to a list of activities specified by the Centre, according to the latest amendments in the Rules of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2008, notified on Wednesday.

**Funding check**

Under the new regulations, NGOs must declare everything they published: books, magazines, and articles in newspapers.

<b>EDUCATIONAL</b>	<b>ECONOMIC</b>	<b>RELIGIOUS</b>
• Scholarships, grants, and fellowships	• Financial assistance, grants, and fellowships	• Religious activities, including the construction and maintenance of religious buildings
<b>SOCIAL</b>	<b>CULTURAL</b>	
• Social welfare, including the construction and maintenance of social welfare facilities	• Cultural activities, including the construction and maintenance of cultural buildings	

Earlier amendments of the Rules only required NGOs to give an undertaking that their acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with foreign states or disrupt communal harmony.

The amended Rules state that the categories of NGOs must specify the purpose or purposes for which the funds are received, and must also declare whether they have any political or religious activities. The amended Rules also state that NGOs must declare whether they have any political or religious activities.

**Key functionaries**  
The amended Rules also require NGOs to declare the names and positions of their key functionaries.

## UN maritime body secures safety pledges to evacuate ships stuck in Persian Gulf

**M. Subramanian**  
NEW DELHI  
The International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary-General Kimmo Moilanen on Tuesday said the UN body has secured safety pledges from the United States, the United Kingdom, and other coastal states in the region.

Although his statement does not explicitly refer to Iran's plan, the plan set out by the US and the UK is to allow the ships to pass through the Persian Gulf. The plan also includes the possibility of evacuating the ships to other parts of the world.



Newsroom snapshot: People are seen playing in a park in Delhi, Tuesday, June 19, 2024.

## Vijay gov't. moves SC on row over lighting of lamp on hill

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI  
The Tamil Nadu government has moved the Supreme Court challenging orders passed by the Madras High Court on lighting of a lamp at a shrine pillar near a temple in the Thiruvannamalai district.

## Wang Yi calls for resuming dialogue mechanism

**Anand Krishnan**  
NEW DELHI  
China's Foreign Minister, Wang Yi, on Tuesday called for resuming dialogue between India and China to address the border dispute.

# Centre tightens norms for foreign donations

NGOs must stick to the activities specified by Centre in their category and geographical area

NGOs must declare everything they published: books, magazines, and articles in newspapers

Existing registrations must comply within the next year; a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh will apply

Vijaita Singh  
NEW DELHI

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) wanting to access foreign funds must now stick to a list of activities specified by the Centre, according to the latest amendment to the Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, notified on Monday.

While NGOs seeking foreign funds are required to register under one of the five permitted categories, namely social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious, this is the first time separate activity lists have been laid out for those in each category.

NGOs must now disclose their activities, the geographical scope of their programmes, their websites, social media accounts, and publications. They must pay separate fees for each category and State or Union Territory they operate in, as opposed to the previous sin-

gle fee for FCRA registrants.

Any new registration must follow the new norms and existing registrations must comply with the changes within the next year. Any violations will be penalised with a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh, according to another order from the Union Home Ministry. The Ministry regulates all foreign donations through the FCRA.

Earlier amendments of the Rules only required NGOs to give an undertaking that their acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with foreign states or disrupt communal harmony.

## Key functionaries

The amended Rules also broaden the definition of an NGO's "key functionary" beyond office-bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the Kar-ta or head of a Hindu Undivided Family, governing body members, and

## Funding check

Under the fresh changes to Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, all NGOs are required to disclose specific activities and geographical scope of their programmes to receive contributions under 5 permitted categories:



### EDUCATIONAL

- Schools, colleges, and libraries
- Scholarships
- Research institutions and think tanks
- Civic-awareness and constitutional-rights programmes



### ECONOMIC

- Livelihood generation
- Skill development
- Agricultural sectors
- Entrepreneurship and micro-enterprises
- Financial and digital inclusion



### RELIGIOUS

- Places of worship
- Religious education
- Pilgrim services
- Meditation programmes
- Preservation of religious traditions



### SOCIAL

- Public health
- Rehabilitation
- Sanitation and nutrition
- Disaster relief



### CULTURAL

- Preservation of Indian arts and languages
- Museums, archives, and cultural festivals
- Heritage conservation

anyone else controlling or managing the organisation.

Associations having foreign nationals (other than persons of Indian origin) as key functionaries will ordinarily not be considered eligible for registration or prior permission, unless specifically permitted by the Centre, according to the new Rules. NGOs must

also declare whether their association or any of their key functionaries brought out any publication during the year, including books, magazines, and newspaper articles.

A senior government official said that the amendments were effected to bring uniformity in Foreign Contribution forms (F-C) and to avoid

duplication.

The amended Rules state that the certificate of registration or the application form (for fresh registrations) shall specify the purpose or purposes for which registration is granted, chosen only from such list of purposes as specified in the Schedule appended to the Rules; and the States or Union territories in

which the NGO proposes to undertake the activities.

The Rules also imposes a fee on NGOs to operate for each specified purpose, and within each State or Union Territory.

Some categories specifically exclude political activities. For instance, the "educational" purpose lists 22 activities but adds the caveat that "awareness programmes on constitutional rights, fundamental duties, and civic responsibilities" must be "strictly non-political in nature."

The "cultural" purpose lists "promotion of contemporary arts inspired by Indian traditions" among 18 categories, adding the caveat to "exclude political/ ideological content."

There are 16 permitted categories of religious activities, including "conduct of religious education, moral instruction, satsangs, discourses, and meditation retreats (excluding proselytisation)", and "burial/cremation ground development and maintenance." There are 19 activities listed

under "economic" purpose, and 30 items under the "social" category.

## Fines for violations

MHA notified another order which specifies fines for FCRA violations such as excess administrative spending, speculative investments, misuse of funds, unauthorised receipt/use of foreign contributions, and using funds for unapproved purposes or in unapproved States/UTs.

Any use of funds for purposes other than those for which they were received can attract a penalty of up to 30% of the amount misused or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. Similarly, using foreign funds for purposes or in areas not covered under the NGO's approval also invites a fine of 30% of the amount or ₹1 lakh, whichever is higher. In addition, spending beyond the permitted expense limit is penalised with fines calculated as a percentage of the amount involved, subject to a minimum of ₹1 lakh.

# Funding check

Under the fresh changes to Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, all NGOs are required to disclose specific activities and geographical scope of their programmes to receive contributions under 5 permitted categories:



## EDUCATIONAL

- Schools, colleges, and libraries
- Scholarships
- Research institutions and think tanks
- Civic-awareness and constitutional-rights programmes



## ECONOMIC

- Livelihood generation
- Skill development
- Agricultural sectors
- Entrepreneurship and micro-enterprises
- Financial and digital inclusion



## RELIGIOUS

- Places of worship
- Religious education
- Pilgrim services
- Meditation programmes
- Preservation of religious traditions



## SOCIAL

- Public health
- Rehabilitation
- Sanitation and nutrition
- Disaster relief



## CULTURAL

- Preservation of Indian arts and languages
- Museums, archives, and cultural festivals
- Heritage conservation

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Provision	New Rule
Activities	NGOs can work only in approved activities listed under FCRA
Geography	Activities must be confined to approved States/UTs
Publications	Books, magazines, newspaper articles must be disclosed
Registration	Existing NGOs must comply within 1 year
Penalty	Minimum fine of ₹1 lakh for violations
Fees	Separate fee for each category and State/UT
Reporting	Websites, social media accounts, publications to be declared

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## Five Permitted Categories Under FCRA

Category	Examples
Educational	Schools, colleges, scholarships, libraries, research
Economic	Skill development, livelihood generation, agriculture, entrepreneurship
Social	Public health, rehabilitation, sanitation, disaster relief
Cultural	Indian arts, languages, museums, heritage conservation
Religious	Religious education, places of worship, pilgrimages

## Educational Category (22 Activities)

### Major Activities

Schools & Colleges

Libraries

Scholarships

Research Institutions

Think Tanks

Civic Awareness Programs

Constitutional Rights Awareness (must be non-political)

## Economic Category (19 Activities)

### Activities

Livelihood Generation

Skill Development

Agricultural Development

Entrepreneurship

Micro-enterprises

Financial Inclusion

Digital Inclusion

## Social Category

### Activities

Public Health

Rehabilitation

Nutrition

Sanitation

Disaster Relief

## Cultural Category (18 Activities)

### Activities

Preservation of Indian Arts

Preservation of Languages

Museums

Archives

Cultural Festivals

Heritage Conservation

### Important Restriction

Political or ideological content is excluded.

## Religious Category (16 Activities)

### Activities

Religious Education

Moral Instruction

Satsangs

Discourses

Meditation Retreats

Burial/Cremation Ground Maintenance



## Key Functionaries – Expanded Definition

Now includes:

### Earlier

Office Bearers

Directors

### Now Also Includes

Trustees

Partners

Karta of HUF

Governing Body Members

Persons Controlling NGO

## Publication Disclosure Requirement

NGOs must declare:

### Must Report

Books Published

Magazines

Newspaper Articles

Other Publications

## Penalties for Violations

Violation	Penalty
Misuse of foreign funds	Up to 30% of amount misused or ₹1 lakh
Unauthorized use	Up to 30% of amount involved or ₹1 lakh
Spending beyond approved limit	Financial penalty
Activities outside approved State/UT	Penalty applicable
Speculative investments	Penalty under FCRA

**Minimum penalty: ₹1 lakh**

## FCRA – Quick Facts for Exams

Particular	Details
Full Form	Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act
First Enacted	1976
Present Law	FCRA, 2010
Ministry	<u>Ministry of Home Affairs</u>
Purpose	Regulate foreign donations to individuals, NGOs and associations
Main Objective	Protect national interest, sovereignty and integrity

JERUSALEM

Israel should 'break free' of U.S. military aid, says PM Netanyahu



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called again for his country to increase its military autonomy and reduce its reliance on support from the U.S., according to a statement released on Tuesday by his office. Since 1949, Israel has received more than \$100 billion, adjusted for inflation, in U.S. aid.

ISLAMABAD

Pezeshkian lands in Pakistan as U.S.-Iran teams work to finalise deal



Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi met on Tuesday with Pakistani officials mediating talks on a permanent end to its war with the U.S., as discrepancies emerged on what had been agreed upon so far and violence broke out again in Lebanon. This visit is followed by high-level negotiations in Switzerland.

KYIV

Zelenskyy to skip key Ukraine conference in Poland over war



President Volodymyr Zelenskyy will skip this year's Ukraine Recovery Conference hosted in Poland, Kyiv announced on Tuesday, amid a scolding diplomatic spat between the allies and neighbours over the Second World War memory. The annual event is aimed at discussing the post-war reconstruction of Ukraine.

KYIV

Russian strikes kill nine in Ukraine, including six near the frontline



Russian strikes killed nine persons across Ukraine on Tuesday, including six in the central Lviv region that borders the frontline, local authorities said. Moscow and Kyiv have intensified attacks to assert control, as U.S. led talks on ending Europe's deadliest conflict since the Second World War remain frozen.

'Israel's targeting of children key part of Gaza genocide'

Agence France Presse GENEVA

Israel is deliberately targeting Palestinian children in what has become a key factor in an ongoing 'genocide' in Gaza, United Nations investigators charged on Tuesday in a report slammed by Israel. The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry said it had found evidence that 'Palestinian children have been deliberately targeted and killed by Israeli security forces'. This, it said, was a key factor in establishing 'the genocidal intent of the Israeli authorities and security forces to destroy the larger Palestinian group in Gaza'. The three-member investigative team, which does not speak for the UN,



Blatkin returns Children watch at sunset follows near the Israeli camp for Palestinian refugees in the central Gaza Strip.

denied' death, inquiry and trauma of Palestinian children. There were 'reasonable grounds' to conclude that Israel's authorities and security forces 'have continued to commit the crime of genocide' in Gaza, they said. Israel dismissed the report as 'defamatory'.

Tehran says it won't permit IAEA inspectors at bombed nuclear sites

U.S. President Trump and Vice-President Vance have said Iran would allow nuclear inspections of its sites 'long into the future'; Mohammad Ghallabai says the Strait of Hormuz 'will never return to the days of free passage before the conflict'

Agence France Presse TEHRAN

Iran said on Tuesday the UN's nuclear watchdog will not be able to inspect key nuclear sites bombed by the U.S. and Israel last year, as the first round of talks to end the war wrapped up in Switzerland. Tehran and Washington have signed a memorandum of understanding to end a war that caused chaos across West Asia and rattled the global economy, embarking on a 60-day period to settle broader issues. Diplomacy on that final deal ramped up on Tuesday, with Iran's leader



Destroyed buildings at Isfahan Nuclear Technology Center after it was hit by U.S. air strikes, in Isfahan, Iran, on June 22, 2020.

heading to mediator Pakistan, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio setting off on a tour of Gulf allies, and Lebanon and Israel due for direct talks in Washington. But Iran denied the claim of U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance that Tehran had agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors

back, after Iran blocked them from nuclear sites struck by its arch foes in a 12-day war last year. 'We have not had a meeting with the director general of the IAEA, nor do we have any plans for the and Iran said it would not clear facilities damaged by the U.S. and Zionist military aggression.' Foreign Ministry spokesperson Bahar Bahari told a press briefing. But U.S. President Donald Trump later said Iran had signed off on comprehensive nuclear inspections. 'Iran has fully and completely agreed to highest level nuclear inspections long into the future,' he posted on social media. When the U.S. joined Israel's war with Iran in mid-2020, it bombed nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan. Iran's UN ambassador Ali Bahari also told press persons on Tuesday 'there hasn't been such a decision' to accept IAEA inspectors. It came as Tehran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghallabai said the strategic Strait of Hormuz 'will never return' to the days of free passage before the war, despite both sides agreeing to set up communication lines to keep it open.

Activists of Awami League held during anniversary marches

Prava Trust of India DHAKA

Dozens of activists of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's now-dissolved Awami League party were arrested overnight as they staged sporadic street marches to mark the party's 77th founding anniversary in defiance of a nationwide security ban, authorities said on Tuesday. Founded on June 23, 1949, when present-day Bangladesh was East Pakistan, the Awami League is the country's oldest political party and led the nation's 1971 Liberation War. 'Through its social media

platforms, the Awami League urged supporters to hold digital discussions, host party flags, organize processions and conduct poster campaigns to mark the anniversary. A police headquarters spokesperson said 26 activists of the ' banned party' were arrested in Dhaka alone, while several others were detained in other places in the country for staging processions or attempting to defy the ban amid heightened security. 'We have followed their plans so far, and I hope that within the remaining time, they will not be able to bring out a procession, or gather anywhere.'

Awaiting justice



Waterkan reaches: Relatives of political prisoners who have been camping outside the U.S. embassy in Caracas for 15 days call on President Donald Trump to intervene to secure the release of hundreds of prisoners in Venezuela.

Hungary passes anti-graft measures, eyeing EU funds

Agence France Presse BUDAPEST

Hungarian lawmakers on Tuesday approved anti-corruption measures, part of new Prime Minister Peter Magyar's economic reform drive and aimed at helping the country get billions of euros in withheld European Union funds. The EU announced late last month it would unlock more than 16 billion euros for Hungary that had been frozen since a rule-of-law concern during national ist Viktor Orban's rule, if Budapest stays on track with a major reform push. The anti-graft legislation easily passed Parliament with 142 votes for, 39 against and three abstentions. The EU froze billions of euros in funds earmarked for Budapest because of democratic backsliding, graft concerns and the restriction of LGBT rights under Mr. Orban's rule.



Peter Magyar

Sri Lanka decides to appoint military-led dengue monitoring unit amid surge in cases across island

Meera Jeelvasan COLOMBO

Sri Lanka has decided to appoint a military-led team to monitor the health surge in dengue cases across the island, even as hospitals report overcrowding and mounting pressure on the public health system. According to a statement from the President's office, the decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Ministry of Health and Mass Media, Dr. Nalanda Jayasinghe, at the presidential secretariat on Monday. The monitoring unit will strengthen legal enforcement measures and further reinforce dengue prevention activities through the 'Community Impo-

vement and Public Safety Committees' established at the local level, the statement said. As of June 20, the island's health authorities have reported a total of 46,037 cases, with nearly 10,000 of those reported from the capital, Colombo. As many as 28 dengue deaths have so far been reported this year. The monitoring unit, under the leadership of the Tri Force, will strengthen legal enforcement measures and further reinforce dengue prevention activities, the statement said. Last week, Sri Lanka's Health Ministry said hospital beds had exceeded their capacity due to a rapid spike in dengue patients being reported. According to me-



Dengue mosquito larvae inside a pipette tube after being collected during an inspection of houses in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

dia reports, Mr. Jayasinghe warned that the island's hospital system could come under severe strain if dengue cases continued to rise. Sri Lanka is widely credited with one of the best public health systems in the region. The country was certified malaria-free by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2016, and the last indigenous malaria cases were reported over a decade ago. In 2012, however, the island grappled with chikungunya, which had experienced a large outbreak in 2025, and den-

Starmer vows transition of power 'as easy as possible'

Agence France Presse LONDON

Outgoing U.K. Prime Minister Keir Starmer pledged on Tuesday to make the transition of power 'as easy as possible', as two Labour lawmakers considered whether to challenge frontrunner Anthony Burnham amid concern about a coronation. Mr. Starmer, who announced on Monday he was stepping down after losing the support of his own MPs, has authorized so-called access talks with prospective successors to begin 'as soon as possible,' Downing Street said. The PM, in office for almost two years, told his senior ministerial team during their weekly meeting



Keir Starmer

that he wanted an 'orderly' handover and whoever replaces him 'to succeed'. Likely contenders Labour veteran Burnham, 86, is the overwhelming favourite to replace Mr. Starmer, despite only becoming eligible for the top job after winning a parliamentary by-election last Thursday.



Anthony Burnham

Former Armed Forces Minister Al Carmo told an event on Tuesday that he wanted to hear Mr. Burnham's 'vision' for the country before deciding whether or not to stand. 'We'll see where we go from there,' he added. U.K. media reported that Government Minister Darren Jones was being encouraged to run by some MPs. A parish clerk to Mr. Jones said that he was keeping his options open until Mr. Burnham lays out more detailed plans for government, particularly on the economy, but that he considered a run 'very unlikely'. Mr. Burnham is due to begin setting out his policy platform next week.

# Tehran says it won't permit IAEA inspectors at bombed nuclear sites

U.S. President Trump and Vice-President Vance have said Iran would allow nuclear inspections of its sites 'long into the future'; Mohammad Ghalibaf says the Strait of Hormuz 'will never return' to the days of free passage before the conflict

**Agence France-Presse**

TEHRAN

Iran said on Tuesday the UN's nuclear watchdog will not be able to inspect key nuclear sites bombed by the U.S. and Israel last year, as the first round of talks to end the war wrapped up in Switzerland.

Tehran and Washington have signed a memorandum of understanding to end a war that sowed chaos across West Asia and rattled the global economy, embarking on a 60-day period to settle broader issues. Diplomacy on that final deal ramped up on Tuesday, with Iran's leader



Destroyed buildings at Isfahan Nuclear Technology Centre after it was hit by U.S. air strikes, in Isfahan, Iran, on June 22, 2025. REUTERS

heading to mediator Pakistan, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio setting off on a tour of Gulf allies, and Lebanon and Israel due for direct talks in Washington.

But Iran denied the claim of U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance that Tehran had agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors

back, after Iran blocked them from nuclear sites struck by its arch foes in a 12-day war last year.

"We have not had a meeting with the director general of the IAEA, nor do we have any plans for the agency to inspect Iran's nuclear facilities damaged by the U.S. and Zionist military aggression," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei told a press briefing.

But U.S. President Donald Trump later said Iran had signed off on comprehensive nuclear inspections.

"Iran has fully and completely agreed to highest level Nuclear inspections

long into the future," he posted on social media.

When the U.S. joined Israel's war with Iran in mid-2025, it bombed nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.


Iran's UN ambassador Ali Bahreini also told presspersons on Tuesday "there hasn't been such a decision" to accept IAEA inspectors.

It came as Tehran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the strategic Strait of Hormuz "will never return" to the days of free passage before the war, despite both sides agreeing to set up communication lines to keep it open.

Iran has stated that it will **not allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)** to inspect nuclear facilities that were bombed by the United States and Israel during the 2025 conflict.

The statement comes despite claims by U.S. leaders that Iran had agreed to future nuclear inspections.

## Key Developments

Event	Details	
Conflict	Iran-Israel conflict escalated in 2025	
U.S. Action	U.S. joined Israel and struck Iranian nuclear sites	
Main Sites Hit	<a href="#">Fordow Nuclear Facility</a> , <a href="#">Natanz Nuclear Facility</a> , <a href="#">Isfahan Nuclear Technology Centre</a>	
Iran's Position	No permission for IAEA inspections of bombed facilities	
U.S. Position	Claims Iran agreed to comprehensive inspections	
Current Status	Disagreement over future inspection mechanism	

## Why Does IAEA Matter?

Feature	Details
Full Name	International Atomic Energy Agency
Established	1957
Headquarters	Vienna
Parent Body	United Nations system
Purpose	Promote peaceful use of nuclear energy
Major Function	Verify nuclear programs and prevent weaponization
Nobel Prize	2005 Nobel Peace Prize

## Important Nuclear Sites of Iran

Site	Importance
Fordow	Deep underground uranium enrichment facility
Natanz	Iran's largest uranium enrichment center
Isfahan	Uranium conversion and nuclear technology center
Bushehr	Civilian nuclear power plant
Arak	Heavy water reactor complex

SENSEX, NIFTY LOST 1.2%; TCS, WIPRO, INFOSYS FELL OVER 3%

# South Korean market's 10% crash after multiple highs reveals AI concerns

Akash Mandal  
Mumbai, June 23

THE SOUTH Korean stock market crashed 10% on Tuesday, triggering a circuit breaker that halted trading, as fears of the AI bubble bursting gained steam. Other Asian markets also fell, including the Indian market.

South Korea's Kospi index had more than doubled until the crash so far in 2026, leading to concerns that the AI-driven rally had been overstretched. Shares of SK Hynix and Samsung Electronics, which had tripled and quadrupled, respectively, so far this year and have a nearly 55% weight on the benchmark index, crashed over 12% Tuesday, which some reports in the Korean media have deemed as 'Black Tuesday.'

The AI rally has led the Kospi to multiple record highs so far this year, with the latest one coming on Monday. However, some experts now believe the AI rally has now run too far ahead of its fundamentals, and the Kospi's crash could be the initial signs of the bubble potentially bursting going ahead.

"AI investments have obviously been very high, but the rally across various tech indices around the world has been insane. We still need to wait and watch regarding the profitability achieved by AI integration and when these steep AI investments may provide returns. But for now, profits do not reflect enough returns from the massive AI investments, so we do not have the fundamentals to back this rally. Today's crash reflects foreign investors suddenly pulling out funds from the market," the research head of a domestic investment firm said.

The crash was caused by the



Other Asian markets inched lower as well after the crash in South Korean market. REUTERS

'simultaneous panic selling' by foreign investors and institutional investors, who combined pulled out over \$6 billion from the South Korean stock market on Tuesday, a report by *Business Korea* said.

## Impact across markets

Other Asian markets also inched lower following the crash in the South Korean market. Japan's Nikkei 225 index ended 3.6% lower. Taiwan's TaieX, another index with heavy AI influence due to chipmaker TSMC, lost 1.3%.

The aftershocks of the crash were also felt in Indian market. BSE Sensex, which was trading nearly flat at around 11:40 PM, crashed nearly 600 points in a 45-minute window. The index inched lower for the rest of the session, eventually ending 893.39 points or 1.2% lower at 76,200.68. The National Stock Exchange's Nifty 50 lost 1.2% to end at 23,824.10. The decline was broad-based, with 67% of the stocks traded on the NSE ending in the red.

IT stocks were among the biggest drags on the benchmark indices, with the likes of TCS, Wipro, and Infosys falling over

## AI-driven markets, companies gave big returns despite crash

Entity	Change on Tuesday	Change in 2026
Samsung Electronics	-12.3%	158.5%
SK Hynix	-12.5%	292.5%
Kospi index	-10%	94.7%
TaieX index	-1.3%	62.6%

SOURCE: EXCHANGES

3%. "Profit booking emerged after Nifty had rallied 4.1% over the previous seven sessions, supported by lower crude oil prices and moderation in foreign outflows following measures aimed at supporting the rupee," according to Siddharth Khemka, head of research, wealth management division at Motilal Oswal.

Wall Street also opened lower late in the evening, with the Nasdaq Composite down 1.6% in early trade. Futures contracts of the Nasdaq Composite and S&P 500 had fallen as much as 2% after the crash earlier in the day. Big tech names such as Intel, AMD, and Micron were down 3-10%. Heavyweight Nvidia was down over 3%. A few global firms had already sounded warning bells for AI.

Jefferies warned that Musk-backed SpaceX's IPO may be the peak of the euphoria surrounding AI. SpaceX's public issue, alongside other big-ticket pending issues like those of OpenAI and Anthropic, could drain liquidity from other stocks, with AI-related stocks that had seen the highest incremental flows recently facing the biggest risk.

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM

## RISK-OFF

SENSEX Intra-day, Jun 23

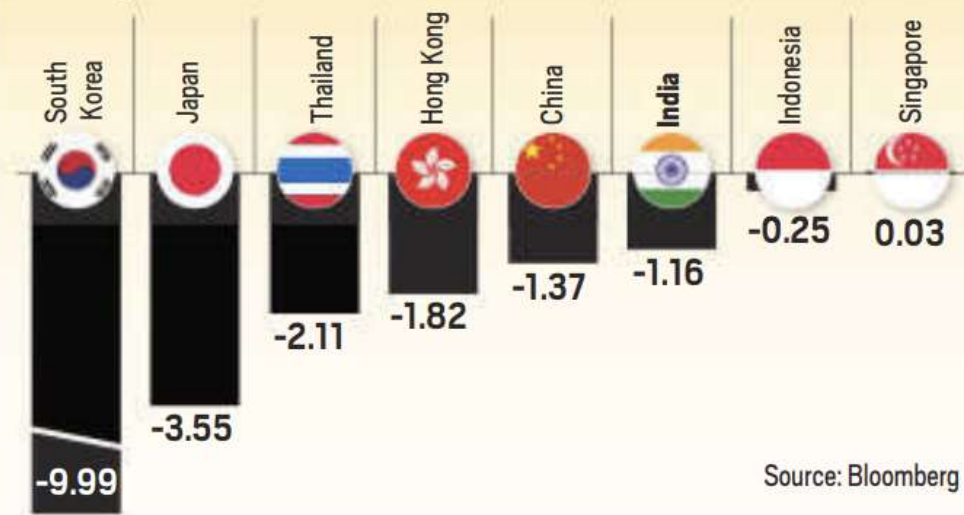
76,200.68

Close



## ASIAN MARKETS TANK

% change on June 23, 2026



Source: Bloomberg

## What is the News?

The benchmark South Korean stock index, the **KOSPI**, crashed nearly **10% in a single session**, triggering a circuit breaker, amid fears that AI-related stocks had become excessively overvalued after a massive rally.

The fall also impacted markets across Asia, including India.

## Key Highlights

Indicator	Details
Country	<a href="#">South Korea</a>
Main Index	KOSPI
Fall in One Day	~10%
Trigger	AI bubble concerns & profit booking
Trading Halt	Circuit breaker activated
Major Stocks Hit	Samsung Electronics, SK Hynix
Impact	Asian and Indian markets declined

# Why Did the Crash Happen?

## 1. AI Rally Became Too Large

- AI-related companies had witnessed extraordinary gains.
- Investors feared valuations had moved far beyond actual earnings.

## 2. Foreign Investor Selling

- Foreign and institutional investors reportedly sold billions of dollars worth of stocks.
- Panic selling accelerated the decline.

## 3. Profit Booking

- Investors who had earned huge profits from AI stocks began exiting positions.

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## Performance of Key AI-Related Assets

Entity	Fall on Crash Day	Gain During 2026
<u>Samsung Electronics</u>	-12.3%	+158.5%
<u>SK Hynix</u>	-12.5%	+292.5%
KOSPI Index	-10%	+94.7%
<u>TAIEX</u>	-1.3%	+62.6%

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<u>TAIEX</u>	-1.3%	+62.6%

### Exam Insight

Even after the crash, many AI-linked stocks remained far above their levels at the start of the year.

## Impact on Indian Markets

Market	Impact
<u>BSE Sensex</u>	Fell about 1.2%
<u>NIFTY 50</u>	Fell about 1.2%
IT Sector	Major drag on indices
Key Losers	<u>Tata Consultancy Services</u> , <u>Wipro</u> , <u>Infosys</u>

## What is a Circuit Breaker?

Feature	Description
Purpose	Prevent panic selling
Mechanism	Temporarily halts trading
Benefit	Gives investors time to reassess
Used In	Stock exchanges worldwide

## Why Are AI Stocks So Important?

### Semiconductor Companies

Company	Importance
Samsung Electronics	Memory chips, AI hardware
SK Hynix	High-bandwidth memory (HBM) chips
<a href="#">NVIDIA</a>	AI accelerator chips
<a href="#">TSMC</a>	World's largest chip foundry

AI models require enormous computing power, making chipmakers the biggest beneficiaries of the AI boom.

# Global AI Bubble Debate

## Similarity with Past Bubbles

Bubble	Period
Dot-Com Bubble	1995–2000
Housing Bubble	2002–2008
AI Bubble?	Ongoing debate

## Concerns

- Valuations rising faster than profits.
- Heavy speculation.
- Dependence on future AI revenues.

## Counter Argument

- AI may create real productivity gains.
- Unlike many dot-com firms, leading AI companies are already profitable.

## Countries Leading in AI & Semiconductor Ecosystem

Rank

Country

1

United States

2

China

3

South Korea

4

Taiwan

5

Japan

6

India

● EXPERTS SAID THE RESULTS MAY REFLECT BEIJING'S PUSH TO PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN COMPUTING SYSTEMS MORE THAN ITS POSITION IN THE GLOBAL AI RACE

# China beats US with world's fastest supercomputer

Reuters

San Francisco, June 23

CHINA HAS overtaken the US to win the top spot on a list of the world's fastest supercomputers, but the results may say more about Beijing's desire to show self-sufficiency in computing systems than its standing in the global AI race, experts said.

The LineShine system at the National Supercomputing Centre in Shenzhen, China, uses domestically designed chips and won the top spot on the TOP500, a biannual global ranking of supercomputers, with the country's first listing in three years.

The ranking comes as the US and China are increasingly competing in advanced computing, with US President Don-

ald Trump on Monday signing an executive order that aims to put the US ahead of China in the emerging field of quantum computing.

In the June 2026 edition of TOP500, LineShine beat out the previous titleholder, El Capitan, a supercomputer housed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory that the US government uses to develop and maintain its nuclear weapons stockpile.

But technology and policy experts interviewed by Reuters said the results do not mean that China has the world's fastest computer for AI work because of changes in the computing industry in recent years and the methods used to compile the list. LineShine ranked fourth on a benchmark test designed to simulate computing work that



The ranking comes as the US and China are increasingly competing in advanced computing. REUTERS

is more similar to AI.

## Benchmark tests

For decades, supercomputers strung together many separate machines to work on

complex scientific problems such as simulating how atoms interact with one another and were mostly the domain of national labs and universities.

To be ranked on the

TOP500 list, supercomputer operators must run a set of benchmark tests that aims to mimic such work.

But in more recent years, cloud computing companies such as Microsoft, Amazon.com and Alphabet's Google built out massive supercomputers of their own but geared them for AI work instead.

Most of those companies do not opt to compete for a spot on the TOP500 list.

A study last year by AI policy researchers Konstantin Pilz, James Sanders, Robi Rahman and Lennart Heim found that SpaceX-owned xAI's Colossus system was already likely more powerful than the US government's El Capitan.

"If the hyperscalers submitted their systems, this

'world's fastest' would not crack the top five," said Jimmy Goodrich, a senior fellow at the University of California's Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation.

## Chip design efforts

The Chinese victory on the list more likely shows that China wanted recognition for its chip design efforts, which is a change from recent years, experts said. China first took the top spot on the TOP500 in 2010 and traded titles back and forth with the US and Japan until 2023, when China stopped submitting its systems after years of chip- and computing-related export controls from Trump's first administration and later under President Joe Biden.

## What is the News?

China has regained the top position in the latest **TOP500 Supercomputer Rankings**, with its **LineShine** supercomputer surpassing the U.S.-based **El Capitan** system.

However, experts argue that this achievement reflects China's push for computing self-sufficiency and chip design capabilities more than a decisive lead in the global AI race.

## Key Highlights

Particular	Details
World's Fastest Supercomputer (TOP500 2026)	LineShine (China)
Previous Leader	El Capitan (USA)
Location	National Supercomputing Centre, Shenzhen
Key Feature	Uses domestically designed Chinese chips
Ranking System	TOP500 Supercomputer List
Significance	China's first TOP500 listing in 3 years

# China vs USA: Supercomputing Competition

Aspect	China	USA
Current TOP500 Leader	LineShine	El Capitan (2nd)
Focus	Computing self-reliance	AI & advanced computing
Chip Strategy	Indigenous chips	NVIDIA, AMD ecosystem
Government Push	Technological self-sufficiency	AI and quantum leadership

## What is a Supercomputer?

Feature	Description
Definition	Extremely powerful computer performing trillions/quadrillions of calculations per second
Used For	Climate modeling, nuclear simulations, AI, weather forecasting
Performance Unit	FLOPS (Floating Point Operations Per Second)
Users	Governments, research institutes, defense agencies

## TOP500 Ranking Explained

Feature	Details
Started	1993
Frequency	Twice a year
Purpose	Rank world's fastest supercomputers
Benchmark Used	LINPACK Benchmark
Measures	Raw computational performance

### Limitation

TOP500 measures general computing performance, not necessarily AI performance.

### Why Experts Are Cautious?

#### Important Observation

China's LineShine:

- Ranked **1st** in TOP500.
- Ranked only **4th** in a benchmark closer to AI workloads.

## AI Race vs Supercomputer Race

### AI Race

AI model training

NVIDIA GPUs

Cloud hyperscalers

OpenAI, Google, xAI

### Supercomputer Race

Raw computing power

CPU + GPU clusters

National laboratories

Research institutions

### Exam Insight

The fastest supercomputer is not necessarily the best AI system.

## Major Supercomputing Powers

Rank	Country
1	<u>United States</u>
2	<u>China</u>
3	<u>Japan</u>
4	<u>Germany</u>
5	<u>France</u>
Emerging	<u>India</u>

## India's Supercomputing Mission

### National Supercomputing Mission (NSM)

Particular	Details
Launched	2015
Implementing Agencies	<u>Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) &amp; Indian Institute of Science (IISc)</u>
Objective	Build indigenous supercomputing capability
Focus	Research, weather forecasting, AI, scientific computing

Supercomputer	Location
PARAM Siddhi-AI	C-DAC Pune
Pratyush	Pune
Mihir	Noida
PARAM Ananta	Pune

# ONGC to Build New Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR) in Mangaluru



Parameter	Details
Project	New Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)
Location	Mangaluru
State	Karnataka
Implementing Agency	Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
Estimated Cost	₹15,000 crore
Additional Storage Capacity	1.75 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT)
Type	Underground crude oil cavern
Ministry	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Significance	Strengthening India's energy security

# What is a Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR)?

A Strategic Petroleum Reserve is:

- Emergency stockpile of crude oil.
- Maintained for energy security.
- Used during:
  - Wars
  - Geopolitical crises
  - Supply disruptions
  - Oil price shocks
  - Natural disasters

## Purpose

Objective	Benefit
Energy Security	Continuous fuel supply
Crisis Management	Protection against global disruptions
Import Dependence Buffer	Helps oil-importing countries
Price Stability	Reduces supply shock impact

# Why is India Expanding SPR Capacity?

## India's Energy Dependence

Indicator	Value
Crude Oil Import Dependence	~88%
Existing SPR Capacity	5.33 MMT
New Capacity Addition	1.75 MMT
Capacity Increase	About 33%

## After Completion

Storage	Capacity
Existing SPR	5.33 MMT
New Mangaluru Facility	1.75 MMT
Total	7.08 MMT

Location	State	Capacity
Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	1.33 MMT
Mangaluru	Karnataka	1.5 MMT
Padur	Karnataka	2.5 MMT
<b>Total</b>	—	<b>5.33 MMT</b>

## Why Mangaluru?



### Advantage

### Explanation

Coastal Location

Easy import of crude oil

Refinery Presence

Existing petroleum ecosystem

Port Connectivity

Efficient logistics

Strategic Position

Arabian Sea access

## Role of ONGC

### Earlier Model

### New Model

SPRs managed by ISPRL

ONGC finances and constructs project

Government-led funding

ONGC balance-sheet funding

Storage managed separately

Direct ONGC participation

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Country

Major SPR System

United States

World's largest SPR

China

Rapidly expanding reserves

Japan

Large emergency reserves

India

Developing SPR network



Indian Jurist Bimal Patel Elected  
Judge of ITLOS

## Parameter

## Details

Name

Bimal N. Patel

Elected To

International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea

Election Date

19 June 2026

Votes Secured

115 out of 168 valid votes

Election Venue

United Nations Headquarters

Term

2026–2035 (9 years)

Assumes Office

1 October 2026

Successor To

Neeru Chadha

Tribunal Headquarters

Hamburg

Feature

Details

Established Under

United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

UNCLOS Adopted

1982

UNCLOS Entered into Force

1994

Headquarters

Hamburg, Germany

Number of Judges

21

Term of Judges

9 years

Nature

Independent international judicial body

## Main Function

ITLOS settles disputes related to:

- Maritime boundaries
- Territorial waters
- Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ)
- Deep seabed mining
- Marine environment protection
- Navigation rights
- Fisheries disputes

## UNCLOS: The Constitution of the Oceans

Feature	Details
Popular Name	Constitution of the Oceans
Adopted	1982
Effective From	1994
Governs	International maritime law
Administered By	United Nations framework

## Maritime Zones Under UNCLOS

Zone	Distance from Baseline
Territorial Sea	12 Nautical Miles
Contiguous Zone	24 Nautical Miles
Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)	200 Nautical Miles
Continental Shelf	Up to 350 Nautical Miles (conditions apply)

## Frequently Asked UPSC Fact

Zone	Rights of Coastal State
Territorial Sea	Full sovereignty
EEZ	Economic rights only
High Seas	Open to all states

Indicator	Value
Coastline	~7,516 km
Island Territories	Andaman & Nicobar, Lakshadweep
EEZ	~2.37 million sq km
Share of Trade by Volume	~95% through sea routes
Share of Trade by Value	~70% through sea routes

Aspect

Details

Profession

Jurist and International Law Expert

Current Role

Member, UN International Law  
Commission

Academic Position

Vice-Chancellor, Rashtriya Raksha  
University

Expertise

International law, maritime law,  
diplomacy

Feature	ITLOS	ICJ
Subject Matter	Law of the Sea	General international disputes
Legal Basis	UNCLOS	UN Charter
Headquarters	Hamburg	The Hague
Judges	21	15



Jonathan Becomes  
World's Oldest Known  
Living Land Animal





Parameter	Details
Name	Jonathan
Species	Aldabra Giant Tortoise
Estimated Age (2026)	194 years
Estimated Birth Year	Around 1832
Residence	Plantation House
Location	Saint Helena
Record	World's oldest known living land animal
Recognition	Guinness World Records Icon (2026)

## Who is Jonathan?

Jonathan is a giant tortoise living on Saint Helena Island in the South Atlantic Ocean.

### Timeline

Year	Event
~1832	Estimated birth
1882	Arrived at Saint Helena
2022	Official birthday fixed as 4 December 1832
2026	Recognized as world's oldest known living land animal

## Why is His Age Considered 194 Years?

Researchers know that:

- Jonathan arrived on Saint Helena in 1882.
- He was already fully mature at that time.
- Experts estimated he was at least 50 years old when photographed in 1882.

Therefore:

**1882 – 50 = 1832 (minimum birth year estimate)**

## Saint Helena: Exam Facts

Feature	Details
Status	British Overseas Territory
Ocean	South Atlantic Ocean
Famous For	Exile of <a href="#">Napoleon Bonaparte</a>
Capital	Jamestown
Jonathan's Home	Plantation House

## Guinness World Records Connection

Fact	Details
Organization	<a href="#">Guinness World Records</a>
Recognition Date	17 June 2026
Status	Guinness World Records Icon
Record	Oldest known living land animal

Animal

Approximate Age

Jonathan (Land Animal)

194 years

Bowhead Whale

200+ years

Greenland Shark

250–400 years

Ocean Quahog Clam ("Ming")

500+ years

Glass Sponge

Thousands of years



# BSE Launches Saatvik 100 Index

Parameter	Details
Index Name	BSE Saatvik 100
Launched By	<a href="#">BSE Ltd.</a>
Developed By	BSE Index Services Pvt. Ltd.
Type	Thematic / Value-Based Stock Market Index
Companies Included	100
Universe	BSE 500 Index
Base Value	1,000
Base Date	20 June 2005
Rebalancing	Twice yearly (June & December)
Significance	India's first Saatvik-based stock market index

# What is the BSE Saatvik 100 Index?

The BSE Saatvik 100 Index tracks 100 companies selected from the broader BSE 500 Index based on predefined **Saatvik principles**.

## Objective

- Promote value-based investing
- Provide an ethical investment benchmark
- Create investment products aligned with specific screening criteria
- Offer an alternative to traditional market-cap-based indices

## What Does "Saatvik" Mean?

In Indian philosophy, "Saatvik" refers to:

Concept	Meaning
Satva	Purity, balance, harmony
Investment Context	Ethical and value-oriented investing
Focus	Responsible business practices

## Similar Global Concepts

Global Term	Example
ESG Investing	Environmental, Social, Governance
Ethical Investing	Socially responsible funds
Faith-Based Investing	Shariah, Christian, Jewish funds
Saatvik Investing	Indian value-based framework

## Structure of the Index

Feature	Details
Number of Stocks	100
Parent Index	BSE 500
Base Value	1,000
Base Year	2005
Review Frequency	Twice annually
Reconstitution Months	June & December

## Performance (as of May 2026)

Period	Annualised Return
3 Years	12.22%
5 Years	11.11%
10 Years	13.70%

## Top Constituents

Company	Weight
<a href="#">HDFC Bank</a>	9.71%
<a href="#">ICICI Bank</a>	7.69%
<a href="#">Reliance Industries</a>	7.65%

## What Are Stock Market Indices?

A stock market index measures the performance of a selected group of shares.

### Examples


Index	Exchange
<a href="#">Sensex</a>	BSE
<a href="#">Nifty 50</a>	NSE
<a href="#">BSE 500</a>	BSE
<a href="#">BSE Saatvik 100</a>	BSE

## Why is the Saatvik 100 Important?

Significance	Explanation
First in India	First Saatvik-themed index
Investment Innovation	New category of thematic investing
Ethical Investing	Supports values-based investment decisions
Benchmark Creation	Can be used for ETFs and mutual funds

## Possible Investment Products Based on the Index

Product	Description
ETF	Exchange Traded Fund
Index Fund	Passive mutual fund
PMS	Portfolio Management Service
Mutual Fund Scheme	Benchmark-linked fund



India's Major  
Reservoir Storage Falls  
to 28.28% (June 2026)

Parameter	Value
Number of Reservoirs Monitored	166
Live Storage (11 June 2026)	51.92 BCM*
Total Live Storage Capacity	183.56 BCM
Storage Level	28.28%
Compared to 2025	8.17% lower
Compared to 10-Year Normal	15.8% higher
Monsoon Deficit (1–17 June 2026)	~40%
Rainfall Received	46.2 mm
Normal Rainfall	74.3 mm

## What is Reservoir Live Storage?

Term	Meaning
Gross Storage	Total water stored in reservoir
Dead Storage	Water below outlet level; cannot be used normally
Live Storage	Usable water available for irrigation, drinking and power generation
Full Reservoir Level (FRL)	Maximum storage level
Minimum Drawdown Level (MDDL)	Lowest operational level

### Formula

**Gross Storage = Live Storage + Dead Storage**

## Current Reservoir Status (June 2026)

Indicator	Value
Live Storage Available	51.92 BCM
Storage Percentage	28.28%
Total Capacity	183.56 BCM
Status	Below previous year
Impact	Water stress concerns

## Regional Storage Pattern

Region	Status
Southern India	Most stressed (20.98% capacity)
Eastern India	Below last year and below normal
Northern India	Better position
Central India	Better than 2025 levels
Western India	Moderate

### Regions Under Pressure

- South India
- Eastern India

These regions depend heavily on monsoon recharge.

## Why Has Storage Fallen?

### Monsoon Deficit

Parameter	Value
Rainfall Received	46.2 mm
Normal Rainfall	74.3 mm
Deficit	Nearly 40%

## Consequences

Sector	Impact
Irrigation	Reduced water availability
Drinking Water	Supply stress
Hydropower	Lower generation
Agriculture	Delayed sowing
Groundwater	Reduced recharge

## Importance of Reservoirs in India

Purpose	Role
Irrigation	Supports agriculture
Drinking Water	Urban and rural supply
Hydropower	Renewable electricity
Flood Control	Stores excess water
Drought Management	Strategic reserves

River Basin	Important Reservoirs
Ganga	Tehri
Narmada	Sardar Sarovar
Krishna	Nagarjuna Sagar
Godavari	Jayakwadi, Sriram Sagar
Mahanadi	Hirakud
Sutlej	Bhakra Nangal

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Topic

Details

Water

State List (Entry 17)

Inter-State Rivers

Union Role under Entry 56

Ministry Concerned

Ministry of Jal Shakti

Technical Body

Central Water Commission

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# RBI Revises Kisan Credit Card (KCC) Norms

Parameter	Revised Provision
Regulator	Reserve Bank of India
Notification Date	19 June 2026
Effective Date	1 January 2027
Scheme	Kisan Credit Card (KCC)
Purpose	Short-term agricultural credit
Collateral-Free Limit	₹2 lakh
Crop Season (Short Duration)	12 months
Crop Season (Long Duration)	18 months

Feature	Details
Launch Year	1998
Launched By	NABARD and Banks
Objective	Timely credit to farmers
Beneficiaries	Farmers, dairy, fisheries and allied activities
Type of Loan	Short-term agricultural credit

## Uses of KCC

- Crop cultivation expenses
- Seeds and fertilizers
- Post-harvest expenses
- Working capital requirements
- Dairy and animal husbandry
- Fisheries activities

## Major Changes Introduced by RBI

### 1. Standardisation of Crop Seasons

Crop Type	Earlier Practice	Revised Norm
Short-duration crops	Different across regions	12 months
Long-duration crops	Different across regions	18 months

### Significance

- Uniform classification across India
- Easier repayment monitoring
- Better loan asset classification
- Improved banking transparency

## 2. Collateral-Free Lending Continues

Provision	Status
Agricultural loans up to ₹2 lakh	No collateral required
Margin requirement	Waived
Allied activities	Included
Gold/Silver pledged voluntarily	Allowed

### Important Point

RBI did **not** increase the collateral-free limit above ₹2 lakh despite demands from stakeholders.

## 3. Loans Above ₹2 Lakh

Aspect	Rule
KCC loan > ₹2 lakh	Bank may ask collateral
Margin norms	As per bank policy
Security requirement	As per RBI guidelines

# Agriculture Credit in India

Indicator	Approximate Value
Annual Agriculture Credit Target (2025-26)	₹27 lakh crore+
KCC Beneficiaries	7+ crore accounts
Main Users	Small & marginal farmers

## Small and Marginal Farmers

### Definition

Category	Land Holding
Marginal Farmer	Less than 1 hectare
Small Farmer	1–2 hectares
Semi-medium Farmer	2–4 hectares
Medium Farmer	4–10 hectares
Large Farmer	Above 10 hectares

### Fact

Small and marginal farmers constitute **over 85% of India's farming households.**



Jainendra K. Jain Wins  
2025 Wolf Prize in  
Physics

Parameter	Details
Scientist	Jainendra K. Jain
Birthplace	Rajasthan, India
Award	Wolf Prize in Physics
Awarded By	Wolf Foundation, Israel
Award Presented By	Isaac Herzog
Ceremony Venue	Knesset, Jerusalem
Date of Ceremony	18 June 2026
Major Contribution	Composite Fermion Theory
Field	Quantum Physics / Condensed Matter Physics
Shared With	James P. Eisenstein and Mordehai Heiblum

# Why Was He Awarded?

## Major Discovery: Composite Fermions

Concept	Explanation
Fermion	Fundamental particle such as electron
Composite Fermion	Electron combined with magnetic flux quanta
Proposed By	Jainendra K. Jain (1989)
Importance	Explains Fractional Quantum Hall Effect

## Simple Analogy

Imagine electrons moving in a strong magnetic field.

Instead of behaving as ordinary electrons, they behave like **new particles** called **composite fermions**.

This solved one of the most difficult puzzles in modern condensed matter physics.

# Fractional Quantum Hall Effect (FQHE)

Feature	Details
Discovery	1982
Observed In	Two-dimensional electron systems
Conditions	Extremely low temperature + strong magnetic field
Significance	Quantum behaviour of electrons
Nobel Prize	Awarded in 1998 for related discoveries

## Why Important?

The theory of composite fermions provided the most successful explanation of FQHE.

## Academic Journey

Aspect	Details
Postdoctoral Research	Yale University
Concept Introduced	Composite Fermions (1989)
Current Position	Professor, Pennsylvania State University
Indian Connection	Founding Director, Lodha Theoretical Physics Institute

# What is the Wolf Prize?

Feature	Details
Established	1978
Awarded By	Wolf Foundation, Israel
Fields	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, Agriculture, Arts
Reputation	Considered second only to the Nobel Prize in many sciences

## Important Fact

Many Wolf Prize winners later receive the Nobel Prize.

Indicator	Data
Established	1978
Nobel Link	27+ Physics laureates later won Nobel Prize

# Wolf Prize vs Nobel Prize

Feature	Wolf Prize	Nobel Prize
Started	1978	1901
Country	Israel	Sweden/Norway
Awarding Body	Wolf Foundation	Nobel Foundation
Fields	Science + Arts	Science, Literature, Peace, Economics
Reputation	Prestigious precursor to Nobel	Highest global award

# Rajasthan Connection

Point	Significance
Rajasthan-born scientist	Global recognition for Indian science
International Award	Enhances India's scientific reputation
Theoretical Physics	High-level contribution from Indian-origin researcher



# JAINENDRA K. JAIN WINS 2025 WOLF PRIZE IN PHYSICS



From Rajasthan to Global Scientific Excellence



## WHO IS JAINENDRA K. JAIN?

- Indian-American theoretical physicist born in **Rajasthan**, India.
- Professor of Physics at **Pennsylvania State University**.
- **IIT Kanpur** alumnus and globally recognized condensed matter physicist.
- Known for discovering the concept of **Composite Fermions**, one of the most influential ideas in modern quantum physics.



## HIS BREAKTHROUGH: COMPOSITE FERMIONS



### PROBLEM:

Electrons behave strangely under extremely strong magnetic fields.



### JAIN'S SOLUTION (1989):

- Proposed a new quasiparticle called a **Composite Fermion**.
- Explained the mysterious **Fractional Quantum Hall Effect**.
- Unified two Nobel Prize-winning quantum phenomena into a single framework.



### IMPACT:

One of the most important theoretical advances in condensed matter physics of the last few decades.



## 2025 WOLF PRIZE IN PHYSICS CITATION

“For advancing our understanding of the surprising properties of two-dimensional electron systems in strong magnetic fields.”

### HE SHARED THE AWARD WITH

**James P. Eisenstein** | **Mordehai Heiblum**

Their work transformed our understanding of quantum matter and the **Fractional Quantum Hall Effect**.



## WHY DID HE WIN THE WOLF PRIZE?

The 2025 Wolf Prize in Physics honors the groundbreaking research that revealed the surprising behavior of electrons in **two-dimensional systems** under strong magnetic fields. This work opened new frontiers in quantum physics.



## WHY IT MATTERS

His theory is helping scientists:

- ✓ Understand exotic quantum states
- ✓ Develop future quantum computers
- ✓ Advance high-performance electronics
- ✓ Explore topological quantum materials



## ABOUT THE WOLF PRIZE

Established	1978
Country	Israel
Awarded By	Wolf Foundation
Reputation	Among the world's most prestigious science awards
Often Called	"Nobel Prize Predictor"
Fields	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics, Medicine, Agriculture & Arts



Many Wolf Prize winners later receive Nobel Prizes.



## KEY MESSAGE

**“Great discoveries can emerge from humble beginnings.”**

Jainendra K. Jain's journey from Rajasthan to the Wolf Prize demonstrates how **curiosity, resilience, and scientific thinking can change the world**.



## INSPIRATION FOR INDIA

- Born in a small town in Rajasthan
- Overcame severe childhood disability
- Continued education with support such as the Jaipur Foot
- Reached the highest levels of global science through perseverance and innovation



RAS/UPSC RELEVANCE



Science & Technology



Quantum Computing



Indian Scientists



International Awards & Honours



Nobel & Wolf Prize Developments

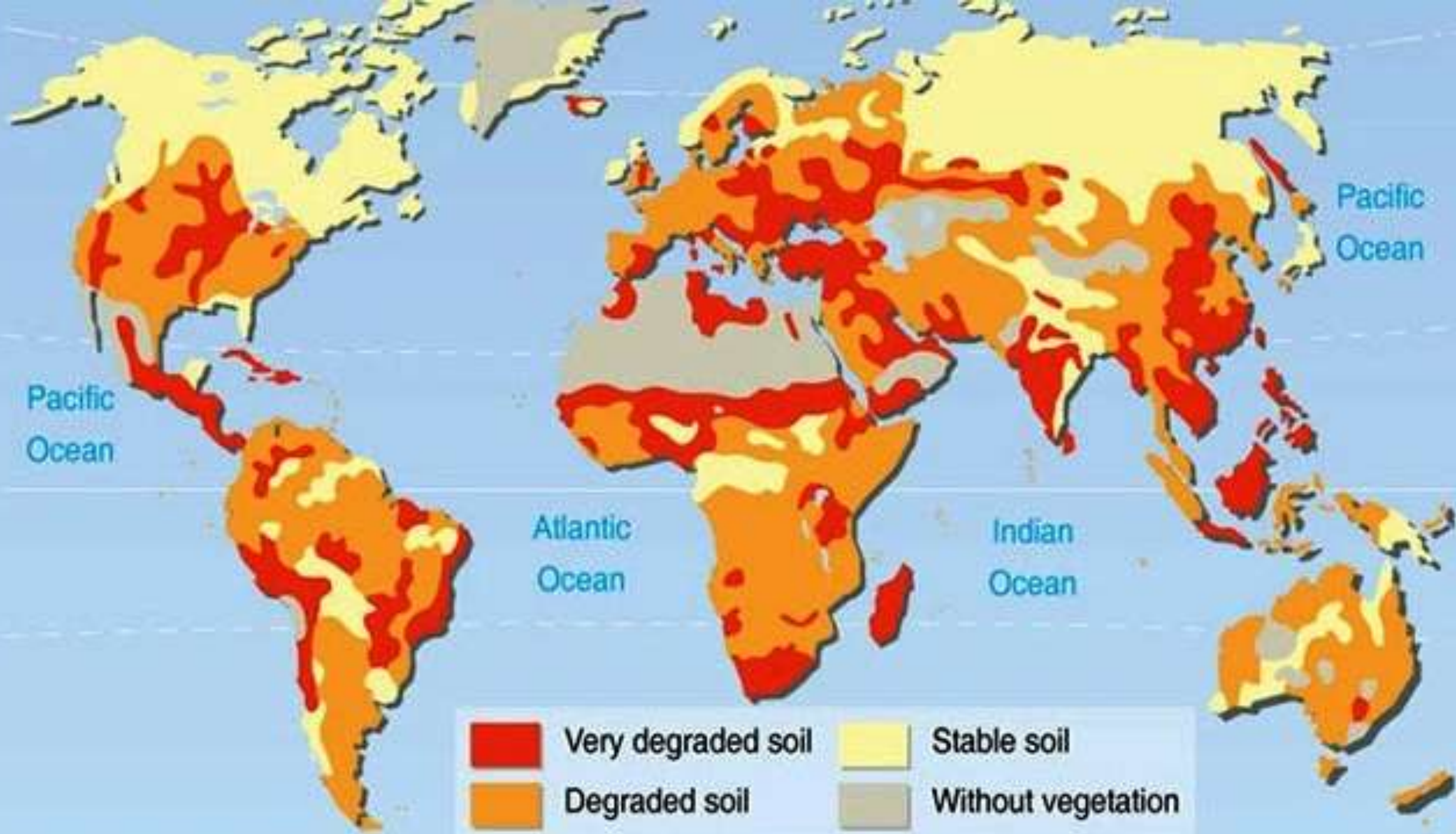
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## Top 10 Largest Deserts in the World



Rank	Name	Area (sq mi)
1	Antarctica	5,500,000
2	Arctic	5,000,000
3	Sahara	3,320,000



<b>Desert</b>	<b>Area (km<sup>2</sup>)</b>
Sahara (Africa)	8,800,000
Gobi (Asia)	1,300,000
Australian Desert (Australia)	1,250,000
Arabian Desert (Asia)	850,000
Kalahari Desert (Africa)	580,000
Chihuahuan Desert (North America)	370,000
Takla Makan Desert (Asia)	320,000
Kara Kum (Asia)	310,000
Namib Desert (Africa)	310,000

Parameter	Details
Day Observed	World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
Date	17 June (Every Year)
2026 Theme	<b>"Rangelands: Recognize. Respect. Restore."</b>
Global Host (2026)	Kenya
UN Convention	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
First Observed	1995
Proclaimed By	United Nations General Assembly (1994)

## Definition

Term	Meaning
Desertification	Degradation of productive land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid regions
Drought	Prolonged shortage of rainfall leading to water scarcity
Land Degradation	Decline in land productivity and ecological health

## India's Observance in 2026

The programme was observed across:

Indicator	Value
Project Areas Covered	813
Scheme	WDC-PMKSY 2.0
Ministry	Ministry of Rural Development
Implementing Division	Watershed Management Division
Date	17 June 2026

# WDC-PMKSY 2.0 (Watershed Development Component)

## Full Form

Watershed Development Component – Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana 2.0

Feature	Details
Period	2021–2026
Financial Outlay	₹8,134 crore
Target Area	49.50 lakh hectares
Focus	Degraded land restoration

## Major Activities

- Soil conservation
- Water conservation
- Groundwater recharge
- Afforestation
- Land restoration
- Watershed development

# What are Rangelands?

## 2026 Theme Focus

Ecosystem Type	Examples
Grasslands	Banni Grasslands (Gujarat)
Shrublands	Semi-arid vegetation
Savannas	Tropical grassland ecosystems
Tundra	Cold-climate grassland ecosystem

## Importance

Function	Benefit
Livestock Grazing	Supports pastoral economy
Biodiversity	Habitat for wildlife
Carbon Storage	Climate mitigation
Soil Conservation	Prevents erosion

# Word of the day

## **Cavalcade:**

meaning a procession of people traveling on horseback

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**Synonyms:** parade, march

---

**Usage:** *The royal cavalcade moved slowly down the avenue, waving to the cheering crowds.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/cavalcade](http://newsth.live/cavalcade)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /,kæv.əl'keɪd/

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# Word of the day

## **Gingham:**

a clothing fabric in a plaid weave

---

**Synonyms:** checkered cotton, woven plaid

---

**Usage:** *The cozy kitchen featured matching blue and white gingham curtains.*

---

**Pronunciation:** [newsth.live/gingham](http://newsth.live/gingham)

---

**International Phonetic Alphabet:** /'dʒɪŋ.gəm/

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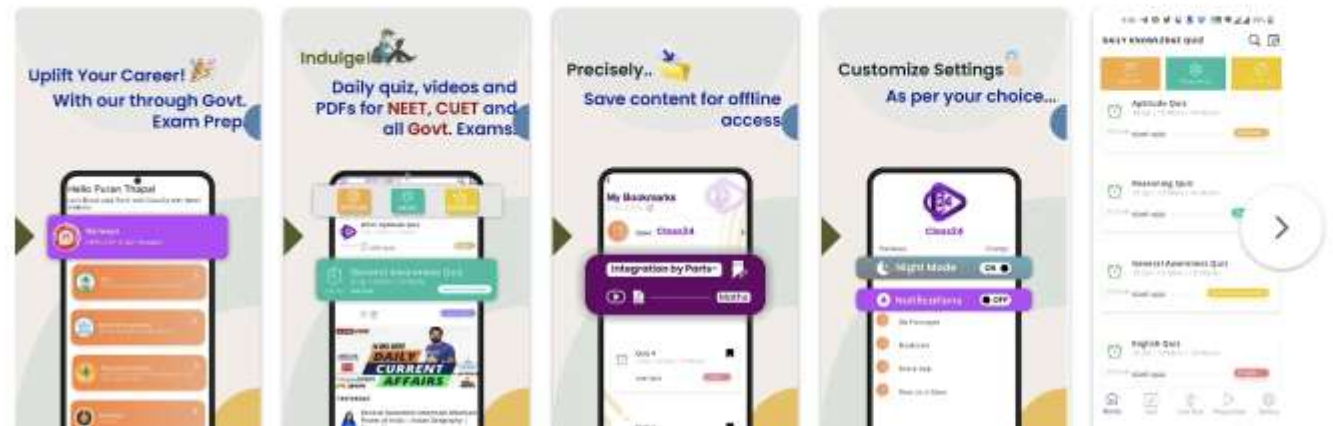
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